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Kalamazoo County judicial election districts eliminated

LANSING – The judicial election districts in Kalamazoo County have been eliminated after Senate Bill 193 was signed by the governor Tuesday, said Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

“This is a great day for the citizens of Kalamazoo County who have been fighting for this for a long time,” said George, who sponsored the measure. “This gives everyone the right and opportunity to vote for all the judges, regardless of where they live. I’m pleased to finally see this enacted.”

While the Kalamazoo County District Courts were consolidated in 1999, the three judicial election districts (city of Kalamazoo, city of Portage and Kalamazoo County) were not. SB 193 was introduced in response to citizens concerns. Since the recent consolidation of the Kalamazoo County district courts, a resident could have had a case presided over by a judge they were unable to vote for. George originally introduced the reform bill in the previous legislative session, where it was passed by both chambers but was vetoed by the governor.

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